

That is what the Republican tax proposal says.

Do not take my word for it. Listen to conservative political commentator Kevin Phillips:

"Republicans are determined to slash the capital gains tax, the estate tax, the corporate alternative minimum tax, and some other provisions important to the people who write the campaign checks."

Mr. Speaker, those are not my words but a conservative Republican political pundit who says those. In addition to that, tonight my Republican colleagues have scheduled a million-dollar fundraising dinner on the eve of the vote for their tax cut proposal. It makes perfect sense. Rich contributors will be able to thank the Republicans for crafting a program that helps them.

#### REPUBLICAN TAX PROPOSAL

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, we hear countless speeches today about taxes. We hear that the debate over taxes is about fairness, it is about special interests, about the struggles of the middle class, about the American dream, about compassion and about justice. Yes, this debate is about all those things. But from my way of looking at things, this debate is principally about freedom. It is not a difficult concept. It is not an idea that requires an advanced degree or lengthy training. It is simply this. If you let people keep more of their own money, they will have more freedom to live their lives as they see fit. Letting people keep more of what they earn will allow Americans to save, to build a better future for themselves and their families, and to realize the American dream. That is what the Republicans have proposed. No more, no less.

#### PASS TAX RELIEF BILL FOR TAXPAYERS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have heard of people with a poor sense of direction, but this is ridiculous. Apparently there are some people in Washington who cannot tell the difference between money that comes out of your pocket and to Washington, and money that comes from Washington and into your pocket.

Taxpayers send money to Washington. Washington sends money to people on welfare. In the first case, the direction of the money is out of your pocket. In the second case, the direction is into your pocket. A tax cut is when less money comes out of your pocket and goes to Washington. If no money is coming out of your pocket, you are not sending money to Washington, DC.

I almost feel I am in the middle of an idiot test. Taxpayers are never confused about the direction their tax money is going. Let us stop this nonsense about giving a tax cut to people who do not pay income tax. Let us pass the tax relief bill for American taxpayers.

#### SUPPORT A BILL TO PROTECT KIDS AGAINST TOBACCO USE

(Mr. BISHOP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, today we will introduce a bill to protect our kids against tobacco use. It is called the Tobacco Use by Minors Deterrence Act and it will stop access by children to tobacco. It is a model law tying health funds for States to their efforts to keep tobacco away from our kids. It outlaws the sale to or possession by kids of tobacco products. It requires parental notification of violations by kids. It provides civil fines and loss of driver's license for kids who are caught. It provides loss of license to sell by retail outlets for repeated infractions. It requires training of employees, posting of notices, lock-out devices for vending machines. In short, it provides for a shared responsibility by kids, families, law enforcement, and retailers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our kids against tobacco use while protecting the right of informed adults to make a choice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider supporting this. It is a win-win situation. It protects our kids against tobacco but at the same time it protects a legal product with adult choice.

#### TIME TO CELEBRATE FIRST TAX CUT IN 16 YEARS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago when I first came to this Chamber, the debate was whether or not to increase taxes on Americans in this country by \$250 billion over that 5-year period? Tomorrow I think we all should celebrate, Republicans and Democrats, because Congress is passing the first tax cut in 16 years. We talk about whether it is for the rich or the poor, but it seems to me that some of our focus should be on what is going to be the kind of tax incentives that result in better and more jobs that pay more, that allow the individual to have a larger paycheck and increase their standard of living.

Here is my opinion. This country became great because we had a system where those that worked hard and tried and made an effort and saved and invested ended up better off than those that did not. Now we have got people suggesting we should have a tax sys-

tem to level the playing field, to punish those that saved and invested and to reward those that did not. We should celebrate our tax cut tomorrow. That gives tax cuts to working American families.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILL ENCOURAGING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. VENTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fact that along with the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], I am joining in co-sponsoring a bill dealing with technology, technology in the classroom for the 21st century.

I am pleased to join in this bill. I think it is very important, not just to have the computers and the hardware there. Of course, I think so many classrooms across the country do not even have a telephone in them these days when we talk about computers. The fact is that having the hardware and having this good hardware in the classroom is important, but we also need to teach teachers to use that particular technology, teach both those that are in college today and those that are in the classroom.

I noticed one of the most important experiences I had as a young educator fresh out of college after doing well enough in college was the fact that I was awarded National Science Foundation scholarships. That enabled me to teach in many areas and to improve my ability to teach at that time in the 1960's. Those experiences were very valuable to me, and I think this bill that we are introducing, the Teacher Technology Act, will be valuable to students in the 21st century and teachers.

#### REPORT ON H.R. 2016, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. PACKARD, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-150) on the bill (H.R. 2016) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). All points of order are reserved on the bill.

#### RIEGLE-NEAL CLARIFICATION ACT OF 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1306) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify the applicability of host